



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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May 6, 1997

Mr. Alex Hildebrand
23443 South Hays Road
Manteca, CA 95337

Dear Alex:

Thank you for your March 10, 1997 letter describing the San Joaquin Watershed Management Plan. After having discussed this plan with you, my staff advises me that it holds potential promise for resolving some of the complex water quality, fisheries, and flow issues surrounding management of the San Joaquin River System. We also think the plan, if it includes a well planned monitoring and assessment feature, might also provide an opportunity to demonstrate adaptive management techniques in keeping with the CALFED approach. I also understand, however, that staff of some CALFED agencies and involved stakeholders have raised concerns that would need to be addressed. Coordination with the USBR and USF&WS is particularly important with respect to the recirculation plan and the South Delta barriers.

Included in the CALFED water quality program is recognition of salinity problems in the lower San Joaquin River and South Delta, and an intent to identify and implement actions to improve water quality in the area. The Programmatic EIR/EIS under preparation will not identify specific projects to accomplish this objective, but will provide sufficient latitude to enable implementation of the San Joaquin Watershed Management Plan, or other salinity control projects during Phase III of the CALFED process. CALFED staff will be conferring with staff of USF&WS and others who may have concerns over your proposed plan with the intent of clarifying the nature of these concerns in order to best address them.

I have asked Rick Woodard to work with you to assist in further developing your proposal as an alternative that, taken together with other CALFED actions, might become an important feature of a comprehensive overall solution to the problems of the Bay-Delta Estuary. Rick's phone number is (916) 653-5422.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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